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# THE MORNING NEWS

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## Tonight is San Nicolas Lighting Parade!



Tonight is the Lighting Parade in San Nicolas. The party starts moving through the San Nicolas streets at 8 p.m. The parade leaves the Joe Laveist Sportpark and ends at the same place. Don't miss out on this fun event in Aruba's Chocolate City!

## US-EU trade pact talks make 'good progress': source

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US and European Union negotiators made some headway Wednesday toward a trans-Atlantic free trade pact, a person close to the talks told AFP.

"Good progress has been made," the source said after EU Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht met with US Trade Representative Ron Kirk.

"The discussions centered around the potential free-trade agreement between the EU and the US."

A free-trade pact between the two sides has been envisaged for years, but little real movement has taken place.

A working group has been in place for a year, with some expectations that a decision to launch formal talks could be made soon.

Last week German Chancellor Angela Merkel called for progress on the issue as she welcomed US Vice President Joe Biden for talks in Berlin.

"Personally, I would like us to move forward in the EU-US free-trade negotiations," she said ahead of their meeting.

A pact would cover a two-way trade relationship that amounted to 445 billion euros (\$600 billion) in 2011.

EU leaders at a summit on Thursday were expected to discuss the planned free-trade deal with the United States, which is seen as potentially providing a boost to the two economies.

But bilateral negotiations have become bogged down amid disagreements over agricultural subsidies.

## Government exploring ways to incorporate the physically challenged into work force!



The government has recently began the process for initiating a series of investigations to be conducted throughout 2013. One of the investigations will be to ascertain what are the obstacles hindering persons who are physically challenged from getting involved in the work force.

These persons need a special type of infrastructure to be able to function in the work place. The government is aware of the fact that there are certain persons with certain physical limitations who could function in the work force. Because there is no clear cut indication in which sector or region these persons can be allocated, they resort to relying on well fare or in some cases go entirely without any income and depend solely on family members.

It is in this context, that it is important to conduct a study to know in what way

this group can be helped with finding suitable employment. Perhaps it may be necessary to make changes in the infrastructure at certain work places.

The government hopes, through the different projects, to bring significant changes to the lives of many persons living with physical limitations in our community. The recently approved changes in our labor laws have as part of their goal to ensure that everyone in our community can have a dignified life with an economic structure so as to be able to make advancement.

The planned investigations will definitely enable the government to know how to combat, in a structural manner, the situation of unemployment of all groups in our community. And, this must also include those with physical disabilities.





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## Tabitha Fecunda's current TV show dedicated to Robert Jeand'or and his Solo Banda Show



Tonight, Tabitha Fecunda's weekly program will cover, in its entirety, the renowned Aruban musician Robert Jeand'or and his Solo Banda Show. The band is celebrating a 20 years musical collab-

oration with Carnival group Los Laga Bai.

Tonight Mr. Jeand'or will elaborate on the band's formula that has made it possible for them to provide the musical entertainment for the



group, contributing to their reputation for its spirited ambience during carnival parades

Viewers will experience the band's intense dedication during training sessions and preparing the different melodies and songs to perform during the parades to particularly conform with the wishes of the members of Los Laga Bai

Mr. Jeand'or explains that for the upcoming year he has lots of plans and projects for his band, upon which he will elaborate during tonight's show. The leaders of Los Laga Bai have joined in the production to explain why they have stayed so loyal to Solo Banda Show for 20 years.

This Carnival season celebration will be big for Robert and his Solo Banda as their singer, Jeffrey Kelly, also won the Tumba King 2013 title. The show was recorded during a training session at the Arsenal field and Tabitha cites it as a "very animated affair." The program will air on Tele Aruba at 10.10 p.m.; don't miss this real "slice of



Aruban life and carnival."

Photos show Tabitha with band members and Robert

Jeand'or signaling for 20 years of Carnival entertainment with Los Laga Bai.

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## Aruba's Beautiful Beach and Spontaneity leads to surprise wedding at Bucuti & Tara Beach Resorts



What began as a childhood friendship would lead to a surprise proposal and a whirlwind ceremony for newlyweds Carl and Cecilia Johan of Stockholm, Sweden. As the couple enjoyed the last romantic dinner of their

vacation under the stars at Bucuti & Tara Beach Resorts in Aruba, Carl proposed to a very surprised Cecilia, who excitedly responded with a yes.

The couple has been dating for five years but met as

children spending their days in swimming school and summer vacations on the Swedish archipelago, Sandhamn. After many years they met again and fell in love as adults.

Not wanting to waste another moment, the newly engaged couple sprang into action the following morning in order to pull off their nup-

tials before leaving the island. "We are engaged, in love and we both love the beach, so it was the perfect opportunity to have a wedding blessing," shared the groom.

With the assistance of Bucuti's full-time wedding coordinator Nashette Wouters, the couple quickly obtained wedding rings, held a quick

meeting with an officiate and searched through their nearly packed luggage for their best beach wedding attire.

Shortly thereafter the couple was wed in a heartfelt ceremony on Eagle Beach just hours before checking out of the resort and checking in to their new future.

Photos by Diane Keijzer

# Thank You!



Meet

*Inca Boye-Wernet,*  
who has been a  
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## A milestone dinner at Marriott's Simply Fish



Is there a more perfect place to pop "the question" than a romantic shore side dinner on Aruba? Jonathan Parent was certainly convinced it was the place to propose to his love of the past five years, Nicole Irick, and couldn't wait past being seated for dinner to get down on one knee.

Much to his joy, she said "yes!" as a ring box seemed to appear out of nowhere before they settled down to enjoy a greatly anticipated dinner at the Marriott Resort's beach restaurant, Simply Fish.

"This had been a long time coming," admitted Jonathan, who had made their travel

plans to Aruba seven months prior, with the intention of proposing to Nicole. "My parents surprised us by announcing they would join us on the vacation," he continued. "They made their plans only one week before departure. I have been to Aruba a number of times with them over the years, and Nicole joined our group of family and friends twice before, but this would have been our first trip together to the island, just the two of us, alone."

Jonathan's mother became a co-conspirator in arranging this special moment, along with Simply Fish Manager Raul Solognier. He arranged

they had a special table apart from the rest, and all the staff were thrilled to watch Nicole accept a tasteful diamond ring from her long time love.

The couple, both from the east coast of the U.S., met while attending university in Ohio. Nicole studying to become an ICU Nurse and Jonathan works in Biomedical Technology in Madison, Wisconsin. Nicole had taken a job where she did her internship, in Rochester, Minnesota, and they continued their relationship long distance, but both had quite enough of the geographical distance. They will now settle down together in Philadelphia, PA, closer to Nicole's home town of Pittsburgh, where Jonathan has just accepted a position.

"I knew it was time to go to the next level," admits Nicole, "but this was a complete surprise, I didn't expect it at all." They agreed the location, and the stunning sunset accompanying Jonathan's proposal, could not have been more perfect. "We now have to start planning a wedding," they agreed, "perhaps one in Aruba, who knows?"

THE MORNING NEWS wishes Nicole and Jonathan many years of wedded bliss and equally memorable vacations on Aruba.

By Rosalie Klein

## Ensenansa Pa Empleo enjoying community popularity



The Ensenansa Pa Empleo (Education for Employment program) is currently enrolling applicants for their upcoming series of courses to begin in the month of March. Reportedly, some 1562 persons have already registered for the various courses.

During 2011 and 2012, the program experienced a steady growth and in 2012 a total of 2,769 persons had taken one or more of the courses offered. To date they have 50% more registrations than last year.

When the program began back in 1988, the objective was to help retrain people who had lost their permanent jobs in the Lago refinery when it closed down. The goal was to help these people get retrained for new jobs.

The first series of courses offered were for Waiters, Bartenders, Pipefitters, Carpentry and Plastering.

These courses were amplified based on the demand from the community and what was being demanded from the labor force. Courses in Computer Sciences, Bookkeeping, and Languages were added to the line up.

Today courses such as, English for Beginners, Papiamento for Beginners, Boat Operator's License, Bartender, Waiter and Beginners Bookkeeping are on their list of courses. The government considers the Ensenansa Pa Empleo a necessity for the development of our people and for the community in general and will continue receiving their attention.



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## Obama picks female business executive for Interior

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US President Barack Obama, under pressure over a lack of diversity in top cabinet appointments, on Wednesday picked business executive Sally Jewell to head the vast Interior Department.

Obama has been criticized for naming middle-aged white men to top jobs on his second-term team, but he has pledged to promote diversity in his other picks and has now settled on several prominent females.

If confirmed by the Senate, Jewell -- who heads Recreational Equipment Inc., an outdoors retail chain -- will succeed Ken Salazar at Interior, which manages US national resources, wildlife, tribal issues and national parks.

"She knows the link between conservation and good jobs," said Obama as he introduced Jewell at the White House.

"She knows that there's no contradiction between being good stewards of the land and our economic progress -- that, in fact, those two things need to go hand and hand.

"She's shown that a company with more than \$1 billion in sales can do the right thing for our planet," Obama said.

Jewell's nomination was welcomed by the National Wildlife Federation, which said that hunters, anglers, hikers, kayakers and bird watchers would welcome her first-hand understanding of how to protect national treasures.

The Western Energy Alliance, a trade association for oil and natural gas firms, welcomed the fact that Jewell, had previously worked for Mobil Oil Corporation.

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# Tablets gain more ground on PCs: survey

WASHINGTON (AFP) - One-third of computers sold worldwide in the fourth quarter of 2012 was a tablet, according to a survey released Wednesday.

The research firm Canalys said that with PCs and tablets combined, the market grew 12 percent year-on-year in the last three months to reach 134 million units.

With its iPads and other computers, Apple led the market with 27 million units, and a 20 percent market

share.

That compared with 15 million for second-place Hewlett-Packard, which was just 200,000 units ahead of China-based Lenovo. Each had a share of 11 percent.

Samsung placed fourth with a nine percent share and 11.7 million computers and tablets, Canalys said.

Dell faded to fifth place with 9.7 million units, a 19 percent decline from a year earlier.

The report said just three

percent of tablets shipped in the quarter used a Microsoft operating system despite the launch of the new Surface and other Windows-based tablets.

"The outlook for Windows RT appears bleak," said Canalys analyst Tim Coulling.

"We expect Microsoft to rethink its pricing strategy for RT in the coming weeks," he said, adding that getting manufacturers on board would probably mean "dropping the

price by 60 percent."

The report said tablet sales were up 75 percent overall in the fourth quarter to 46.2 million units, bringing the full-year total to 114.6 million.

Canalys estimated that the new iPad mini made up more than half of Apple's tablet sales, and that Apple's overall share of the tablet segment fell to 49 percent, becoming the first quarter it has not controlled over half the market.

"Apple timed the launch

of the iPad mini well," said Pin-Chen Tang of Canalys.

"Its success proves there is a clear demand for pads with smaller screens at a more affordable price. Without the launch, Apple would surely have lost more ground to its competitors."

Canalys said Amazon's worldwide shipments grew 18 percent in the quarter to 4.6 million units, as it expanded the Kindle Fire and launched in markets outside the United States.



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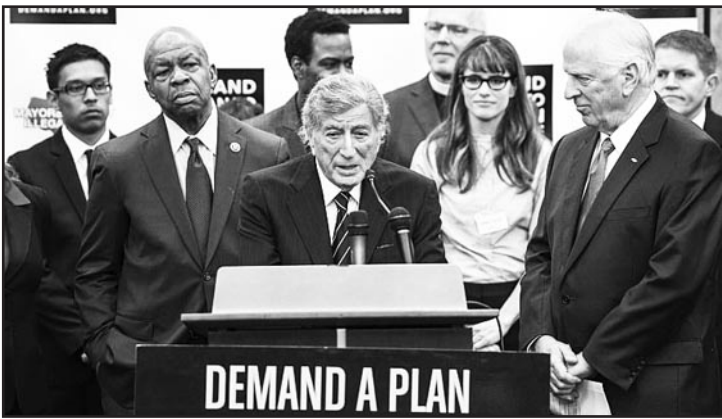
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## Stars pressure Congress to act on gun control



US singer Tony Bennett delivers brief remarks during a press conference by Mayors Against Illegal Guns February 6, 2013 on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC as US Rep Elijah Cummings(D-MD), Entertainer Chris Rock(C behind), Rev Timothy A. Boggs(R), and Actress Amanda Peet(2ndR) look on from the rear. The group of various mayors, victims, entertainers, and political leaders, called for common sense proposals for gun violence prevention.

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Hollywood celebrities and children of slain Martin Luther King, Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy joined shooting victims Wednesday in demanding tougher action from US lawmakers on reducing gun violence.

Comedian Chris Rock, aging Grammy-winner Tony Bennett and actress Amanda Peet brought their stardom to Congress to press for legislation that outlaws military-style assault weapons, mandates background checks for all gun purchases, and makes arms trafficking a federal crime.

Such proposals have been introduced or are being drafted, but Congress has yet to act.

"I still haven't gotten over Connecticut," a somber Bennett told reporters, referring to the December massacre at a school in Newtown, where a gunman slaughtered 20 children and six adults.

Bennett, a self-described pacifist, said he believed assault weapons like the ones President Barack Obama and some Democratic US lawmakers want banned "were invented for war, and they shouldn't be on our streets."

The 86-year-old singer spoke at an event hosted by Mayors Against Illegal Guns, a group with financial backing from New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

Following the Newtown

tragedy, Obama laid out proposals to stem rampant gun violence, but none of the related legislation has been brought to a vote.

Peet, who starred in catastrophe epic "2012," said she was ashamed that lawmakers

had yet to band together to improve safety despite the "staggering" number of gun fatalities.

"What's the alternative? Doing nothing will fail. Doing nothing has failed," she said.

Rock, standing among violence victims like Stephen Barton, who suffered shotgun injuries during the movie theater massacre last year in Aurora, Colorado, said he joined the event to show support for Obama's proposals.



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## International News

# Spain police seize 4 tonnes of cocaine in cow hide shipment

MADRID (AFP) - Spanish police said Wednesday they had seized 4.1 tonnes of cocaine worth nearly a quarter of a billion euros in one of the biggest ever seizures of the drug in the country.

The cocaine was found at a warehouse in the eastern city of Elche, hidden in containers of cow hides that came by boat from Colombia and were to be delivered to a shoe maker, police said in a statement.

The cocaine was stored in thousands of packages containing just over a kilo (two pounds) of the drug each, enough for around 82 million doses.

The cocaine is worth nearly 242 million euros (\$327 million) and was destined for distribution in Spain and across Europe.

Police detained three Spanish men, including the suspected leader of the drug trafficking ring, and searched 16 houses, businesses and warehouses that belonged to the suspects.

The authorities seized two shotguns, a hunting rifle, a box of ammunition, three machetes, two computers, and six luxury vehicles, as well as

6,755 euros in cash.

Police swooped on traffickers just as they appeared to be getting ready to remove the cocaine from the warehouse in several trucks.

It was one of the biggest cocaine seizures ever carried out on land in Spain and the biggest since police in 2001 seized 4.4 tonnes of cocaine hidden in a warehouse amongst a shipment of canned sardines.

Major cocaine seizures in Spain usually happen at sea. In 2006, police seized three tonnes of it in a boat off the Canary Islands in the Atlantic.

The following year, they seized four tonnes of cocaine from a boat off the coast of Almeria in the Mediterranean.

Spain's close ties with its former colonies in Latin America, a major cocaine-producing region, and its proximity to Morocco, a key source of hashish, have made it a major gateway into Europe for drug traffickers.

Large amounts of cocaine have been found in recent years hidden amongst shipments of roses, cakes, exotic wood and fake plastic bananas.

## In a first, transsexual runs for office in Ecuador

GUAYAQUIL (AFP) - A 30-year-old rights activist is vying to become Ecuador's first transsexual lawmaker.

Diane Rodriguez is seeking to fill a vacant congressional seat as a candidate of the leftist Rupture 25 party in the South American country's February 17 presidential and parliamentary elections.

If she succeeds, the psychology student would become the first transsexual to hold public office in this socially conservative nation where 85 percent of the population identifies as Catholic.

"My focus will be on all minorities, vulnerable ethnic groups and feminist causes," Rodriguez told AFP, adding that she would also push for the legalization of same-sex marriage -- an issue President Rafael Correa and his main rival have spoken out against.

Rodriguez, whose former legal name was Luis Benedicto, says she has struggled for years due to her sexual orientation.

When she came out as a teenager to her parents, they kicked her out of the house, and for a brief time she survived as a prostitute before being allowed to return home.

"I wanted to develop my sexuality freely," she said, explaining her decision to secretly undergo hormone therapy.

As her appearance gradually became more feminine, Rodriguez said she faced discrimination in both her personal and professional lives.

After a legal battle, Rodriguez set a precedent when she finally obtained an ID card in 2009 that replaced her given male name -- but not her gender.

With the support of NGOs, Rodriguez launched a campaign that calls for individuals to be allowed to choose which gender they want to register as.

Rodriguez is not the first transsexual to seek a legislative seat in Latin America. In Chile, Valentina Verbal, who had a sex change operation four years ago, also is running for a seat in the parliament.

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## Five dead as Solomons quake sparks Pacific tsunami

HONIARA (AFP) - A major 8.0 magnitude earthquake jolted the Solomon Islands Wednesday with small tsunami waves buffeting Pacific coasts, leaving at least five people dead and dozens of homes damaged or destroyed.

A quake-generated wave of just under one metre (three feet) reached parts of the Solomons, and Vanuatu and New Caledonia also reported rising sea levels, before a region-wide tsunami alert was lifted.

Sirens were heard in Fiji, locals said. "Chaos in the streets of Suva as everyone tries to avoid the tsunami!!" tweeted Ratu Nemani Tebana from the Fiji capital.

The waves reached as far away as Japan, which was hit by a huge tsunami in March 2011 that killed more than 19,000 people.

Japan's Meteorological Agency reported a 40-centimetre tsunami hitting Hachijo Is-

land about 290 kilometres (180 miles) south of Tokyo, while 20-centimetre waves reached the main islands of Kyushu and Shikoku and smaller waves were recorded on Honshu.

The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center cancelled its regional alert for Pacific-island nations at 0350 GMT, about two and a half hours after the powerful quake struck at 0112 GMT near the Santa Cruz Islands in the Solomons.

Australian and US monitors said a tsunami wave measuring 91 centimetres washed into the town of Lata, on the main Santa Cruz island of Ndende.

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said the wave appeared to have travelled 500 metres inland, inundating Lata's airstrip as well as surrounding villages, flattening many traditional houses.

Solomons Prime Minister

Gordon Darcy Lilo's office said four villages on the Santa Cruz Islands had been hit by the tsunami.

Solomon Islands Red Cross secretary general Joanne Zoleveke said she had been told at least three villages were hit, with houses washed away.

With Lata's airstrip out of commission, officials were hoping to fly over the area early today to assess the damage better.

The US Geological Survey said the quake struck the Santa Cruz Islands, which have been rocked by a series of strong tremors over the past week, at a depth of 28.7 kilometres (18 miles).

Dozens of aftershocks continued through the day, including one at 6.6-magnitude.

The Solomons are part of the "Ring of Fire", a zone of tectonic activity around the Pacific that is subject to earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.



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## Health & Living

### Sun (and other) protection tips - During Carnaval Parades

-- With the Carnaval Big parades this week-end, we would like to give you some tips on how to protect your skin and that of your family from the damaging ultraviolet radiation of the sun.



#### Use sunscreen:

Babies and children should be kept out of direct sun light and should wear sun protective clothing, including hats and sunglasses. While most sunscreen can be used on infants, it is better to only use a sunblock with zinc and/or titanium dioxide. Apply the sunblock only on the exposed skin. ( They should be applied sunscreen every morning to exposed skin, before going outside and to reapply every two hours while outside.

Adolescents and Adults should use UV protection daily.

#### Use shade wisely:

Seek shade when UV rays are the most intense, but keep in mind that shade structures such as trees, umbrellas or canopies do not offer complete sun protection.



#### Drink Up:

Drinking water is an important part of staying healthy, especially when it's hot outside. When you're sweating, you lose water that your body needs to work properly.

ing' when we're partying and having a good time disregarding our health!

#### Pay extra attention to your kids:

Paying attention means more than being physically present. Make sure they consume enough liquid and have enough to eat. Be sure they're nearby you or some responsible adult.

And last but not least for everyone's safety please don't stay out too late after the parades.

#### Have a Safe and Sound Carnaval !!



So drink up and don't wait until you're thirsty — drinking before you feel thirsty helps keep the water level in your body from dropping too low (dehydration).

#### Don't drink too much alcohol:

And Don't drink AT ALL of your driving, remember alcohol can contribute to accidents, fights and lots of other negative things or behavior.

#### Don't eat too much:

We're used to 'over eat-



### Mexican girl gives birth at nine

MEXICO CITY (AFP) - A Mexican girl aged nine has given birth to a girl of her own, local authorities and family members said Wednesday.

"The girl was just over eight when she got pregnant. The father is a boy who is 17, but we have not found him, since he ran away," the mother of the girl, identified only as Dafne, told local officials in Jalisco state.

"We are looking for the young man to get his story be-

cause she does not understand what has happened. This is a rape or child sex abuse case," said Jorge Villaseñor with the state prosecutors' office.

The baby girl was born January 27 in Zoquipan Hospital, weighing 2.7 kilos (5.7 lbs). Both girls were released from the hospital over the weekend, apparently doing well, but the hospital said it would have to do extensive followup due to the new mother's age.

### US teenagers lose fingers in school tug-of-war

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Two Californian teenagers had some of their fingers ripped off when a school tug-of-war contest went horribly wrong, officials said.

The pair of senior students, a girl and a boy, were said to be in stable condition in hospital after the lunchtime accident Monday, said an official from the El Monte Union High School.

The incident happened when the rope snapped. Both teenagers underwent surgery to re-attach the fingers, but it

was not immediately clear how successful they were, or how many fingers were lost.

The girl involved is a varsity soccer player, while the boy plays football, the newspaper reported.

El Monte Union High School District Assistant Superintendent Edward Zuniga said he did not know how many other people were taking part in the tug-of-war at the school, east of Los Angeles.

KTLA reported that 40-50 people were involved and watching when the accident occurred.

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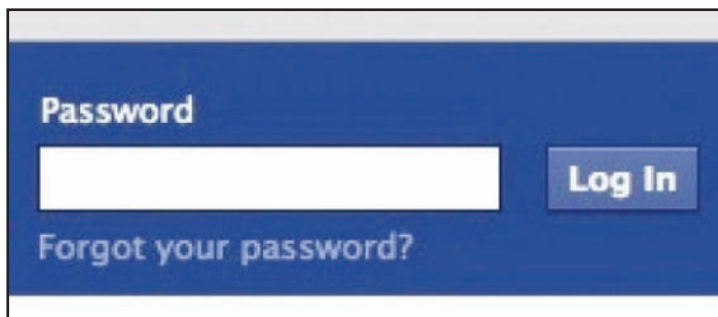
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## Sci-Tech

### US lawmakers propose password privacy bill



WASHINGTON (AFP) - A group of US lawmakers on Wednesday proposed a bill that would make it illegal for employers or schools to require the disclosure of passwords for social networks such as Facebook.

The bipartisan proposal comes after reports that some firms have required passwords as a condition of employment, or that schools have asked for the information to guarantee enrollment or participation in sports programs.

The lawmakers said the bill, a reintroduction of a measure proposed last year, was aimed at protecting privacy in social networks like Facebook or Twitter.

"The lack of clarity in the law puts individuals in a position where they either have to give up vital, private information, or risk losing their job, potential job, or enrollment in school and involvement in the

school's sports programs," said Representative Eliot Engel, one of the bill's sponsors.

"Frankly, when there are no laws prohibiting institutions from requiring this information, it becomes a common practice."

The proposed Social Networking Online Protection Act would protect people already employed or enrolled, those seeking employment or admittance, and those facing disciplinary action, from being required to disclose their passwords.

The lawmakers said six states -- California, Delaware, Illinois, Maryland, Michigan and New Jersey -- have already enacted similar legislation, but argued that a federal bill is needed.

"Asking for someone's password is like asking for a key to their home," said Representative Jan Schakowsky, another sponsor.

"Privacy is a basic right that all Americans share, and one that we should act to protect; this legislation sets boundaries," she said.

"No one seeking an educational or job opportunity should have to worry that their personal password information will be required as a condition of enrollment or employment."

Engle, from New York, and Schakowsky, from Illinois, were joined by Representatives Michael Grimm and Paul Tonko of New York, Keith Ellison of Minnesota and Chellie Pingree of Maine.



### Bionic eye gives hope to the blind



WASHINGTON (AFP) - After years of research, the first bionic eye has seen the light of day in the United States, giving hope to the blind around the world. Developed by Second Sight Medical Products, the Argus II Retinal Prosthesis System has helped more than sixty people recover partial sight, with some experiencing better results than others. Consisting of 60 electrodes implanted in the retina and glasses fitted with a special mini camera, Argus II has already won the approval of European regulators. The US Food and Drug Administration is soon expected to follow suit, making this bionic eye the world's first to become widely available. Those to benefit from Argus II are people with retinitis pigmentosa, a rare genetic disease, affecting about 100,000 people in the US, that results in the degeneration of the retinal photoreceptors. The photoreceptor cells convert light into electrochemical impulses that are transmitted to the brain via the optic nerve, where they are decoded into images. According to Mech, Argus II is already available in several European countries for 73,000 euros (\$99,120). A US price has not been set but is likely to be higher, he said.

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## PICKLES



## MOMMA



## CALVIN and HOBBS



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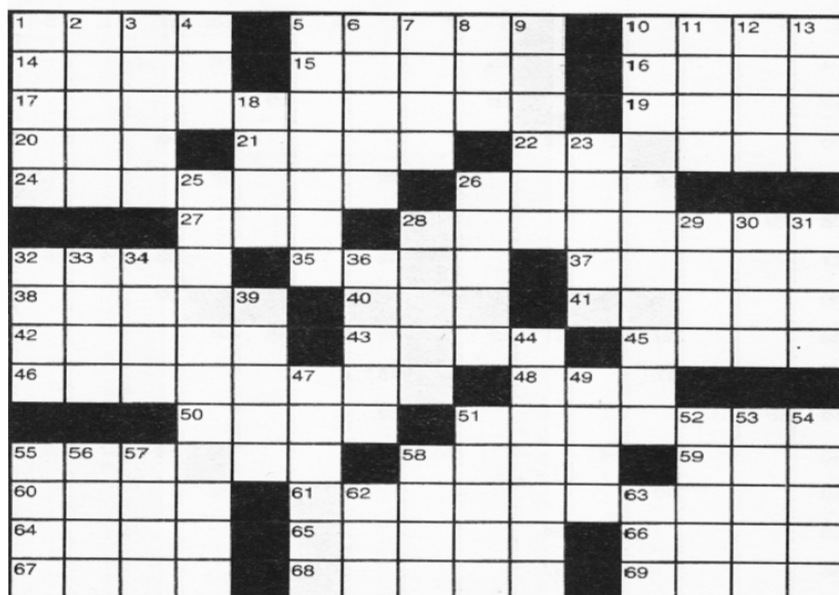
1. Role in a play  
5. English novelist  
10. "Candida" playwright  
14. One of the Waltons  
15. Elizabeth I's favorite  
16. Sharpen  
17. Proverbial gauge  
19. Tiny bit  
20. Resembling: suffix  
21. Demeanor  
22. Sequeled 1937 Cary Grant film  
24. Benchmark for a beach bunny  
26. The good guy  
27. Had breakfast  
28. Film starring
32. Syrian or Saudi  
35. Illustrious  
37. River to the Rhone  
38. Helicopter blade  
40. "\_\_\_ was saying..."  
41. Navigate  
42. Idolatry  
43. Followers: suffix  
45. "The Sun \_\_\_ Rises"  
46. Summer drink  
48. Make lace  
50. Swamplands  
51. Poisonous  
55. Philly team  
58. "My Favorite \_\_\_"  
59. Miscellanea  
60. Pisa's river  
61. Logomachy  
64. Croat or Serb

65. 12-characters-per-inch type  
66. Birthday counts  
67. Carry  
68. Do roofwork again  
69. Animal on a Spanish farm

## DOWN

1. \_\_\_ point  
2. NBA site  
3. \_\_\_ Star (racehorse)  
4. It's a blast: abbr.  
5. Fit for high society  
6. Cosmetician  
7. "It's \_\_\_ to Tell a Lie"  
8. Pol. party  
9. English city  
10. Nation  
11. Prop for a

- poodle act  
12. Type of room  
13. Wash-and-\_\_\_  
18. Leave out  
23. Region's bird life  
25. Saint's undertaking  
26. Football commentator Long  
28. Sew loosely  
29. Rotatory device  
30. "\_\_\_ Tu" (1974 hit song)  
31. Architect  
32. Asian sea  
33. Took the subway  
34. Smallest component of an element  
36. Attacks on speakeasies  
39. Opera singer  
44. Fleming  
47. Political campaign worker  
49. Retort  
51. "Baby needs \_\_\_ pair of shoes"  
51. Flora and fauna  
52. 1996 Coen Brothers film  
53. "\_\_\_ the Volcano" (Malcolm Lowry)  
54. Cow catcher  
55. Atlantic coast  
56. A Guthrie  
57. Small pest  
58. Court order  
62. Tavern drink  
63. Cereal ingredient



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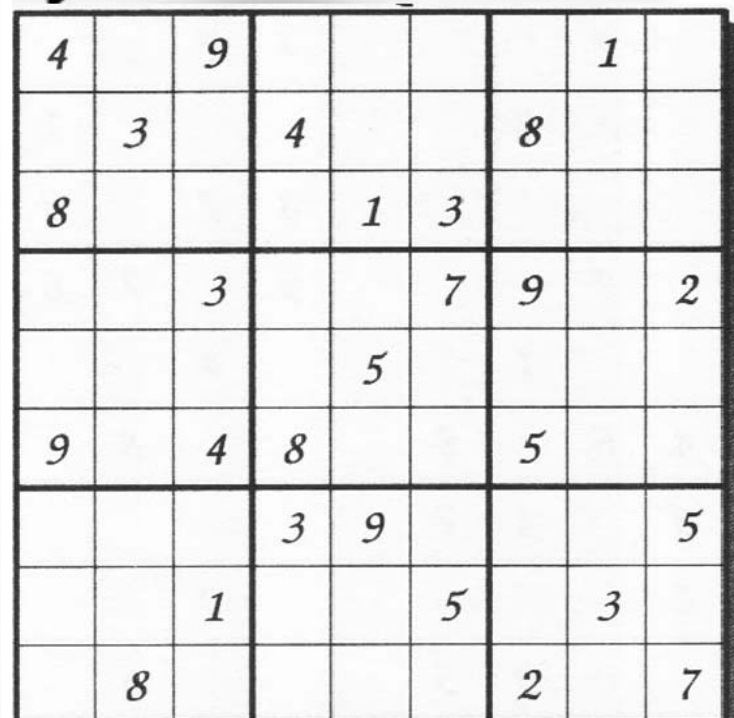
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## Sudoku



SOLUTION

4	6	7	9	1	5	8	3	2
8	5	1	3	2	4	1	6	9
5	9	1	8	6	3	2	7	4
9	2	5	1	8	7	4	6	3
1	4	3	6	5	2	8	9	7
2	8	6	4	7	9	5	1	3
7	2	4	1	6	9	5	8	3
6	5	8	9	2	7	4	1	3
3	1	9	2	8	5	6	7	4

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9  
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.  
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



## Finance

# Chinese make record foreign investments in 2012: PwC

PARIS (AFP) - Foreign mergers and acquisitions by Chinese investors set a record last year, while domestic purchases marked a pause, a study released on Wednesday by the accounting firm PwC showed on Wednesday.

PricewaterhouseCoopers put total Chinese investment abroad in 2012 at \$65.2 billion, an annualised leap of 54 percent, a statement said.

The number of investments declined slightly meanwhile to

191 transactions from 206 deals in 2011, but they still represented one-third of all Chinese investments, the statement said.

PwC forecast another record this year.

But Chinese domestic mergers and acquisitions fell by 28 percent in value to \$97.1 billion, and by 23 percent in volume to 2,953 last year, their lowest level in five years, the audit and consulting group said.

Thierry Charpentier, head of transactions of PwC's China Business Group, forecast an improvement, saying in the French-language statement that the domestic decline "does not mean that investors have lost their appetite for doing business in China."

In terms of volume, Japanese investors were the most active in China last year, but in terms of overall value, those from Europe and the United States were more committed, the study showed.

# Apple sells 25 billionth song at iTunes store

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) - Apple on Wednesday announced that the number of digital songs downloaded from its iTunes Store has topped 25 billion.

The 25 billionth song bought from the online shop was a "Monkey Drums" remix by Chase Buch.

Apple said that it was bought by a German man who will be getting a 10,000 euro iTunes gift card to celebrate the occasion.

"We are grateful to our users

whose passion for music over the past 10 years has made iTunes the number one music retailer in the world," Apple senior vice president Eddy Cue said in a release.

An average of 15,000 songs are downloaded every minute at iTunes, a shop stocked with digital content for iPhones, iPads, and iPods as well as computers powered by Macintosh or Windows operating systems.

"In a lot of ways, iTunes has

leveled the playing field for musicians," said Wesley Schultz, guitarist and lead vocalist with the band The Lumineers, in the statement released by Apple.

"Whether you're unsigned, indie, major, whatever -- it's the place most people go to buy digital music."

The iTunes Store was opened in 2003 and the shop caught fire with lovers of the California company's culture-changing mobile devices.

# New US sanctions on Iran boosts oil

NEW YORK (AFP) - News of stepped-up US sanctions on Iran Wednesday overcame an early decline in oil prices, leaving the commodity nearly flat.

The cost of a barrel of West Texas Intermediate oil for March delivery ended two cents lower at \$96.62 on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

In London, the price of a barrel of European benchmark Brent closed at \$116.73, up 21 cents from Tuesday.

US oil prices were down about \$1.60 a barrel early in the session, but largely recovered those losses after the US Treasury Department an-

nounced new sanctions targeting Iranian oil revenue.

Under the plan unveiled Wednesday, Iran is denied direct access to the money from its oil sales to other countries.

The action followed a weekly US oil inventory report that was fairly market-neutral.

The US government's Energy Information Administra-

tion announced Wednesday that American oil stockpiles climbed by 2.6 million barrels in the week ending February 1.

Crude futures had fallen in earlier trading as traders took profits and the market was pressured by the stronger greenback, which makes dollar-priced crude more expensive for buyers using weaker currencies.



**FLORIDA CITY (AFP) -** Workers fill a trailer with tomatoes as they harvest them in the fields of DiMare Farms on February 6, 2013 in Florida City, Florida. The United States government and Mexico reached a tentative agreement that would go into effect around March 4th, on cross-border trade in tomatoes, providing help for the Florida growers who said the Mexican tomato growers were dumping their product on the U.S. markets.

## YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

EMBED	BUMS	CHIN
SAUTE	ASEA	REBA
ARGOT	TENTPOLES	
USS	RETRIAL	LAT
PEARL	ANATOMY	
MIRACLE	LITE	
DRATTED	SCONCES	
COY	ARP	
INSOFAR	ALBANIA	
ALSO	REASONS	
PRORATA	RETAP	
AEF	PASSERS	ERS
CAMPSITES	MANIA	
EVER	REET	EVEN'S
DENY	ERRS	NERDS





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**FAIRFAX (AFP):** In this photo illustration, Monopoly game pieces are displayed in Fairfax, California. Toy maker Hasbro, Inc. announced today that fans of the board game Monopoly voted in an online contest to eliminate the iron playing figure and replace it with a cat figure. The cat game piece received 31 percent of the online votes to beat out four other contenders, a robot, diamond ring, helicopter and guitar.

# Royal Bank of Scotland fined \$610 mn, settles Libor probe

LONDON (AFP) - State-rescued Royal Bank of Scotland will pay fines totalling \$612 million (453 million euros) to US and British regulators to settle allegations of Libor interest rate rigging, it announced on Wednesday.

RBS, which is 81-percent owned by the government, said it has agreed to pay the equivalent of £391 million to regulators, becoming the third bank to admit its part in the Libor affair after British rival Barclays and Swiss lender UBS.

The investigations uncovered "wrongdoing" by 21 employees, predominantly in relation to the setting of the bank's yen and Swiss franc Libor submissions between October 2006 to November 2010, the bank said.

RBS added it had been fined \$325 million by the US Commodity Futures Trading Commission, \$150 million by the US Department of Justice (DoJ) and £87.5 million (\$137 million, 101 million euros) by Britain's Financial Services Authority.

The bank has also entered into a deferred prosecution agreement with the DoJ, in relation to one count of wire fraud relating to Swiss franc Libor and one count for an antitrust violation relating to yen Libor.

RBS Securities Japan Limited has agreed to enter a plea of guilty to one count of wire fraud relating to Yen Libor, it added in the statement.

British finance minister George Osborne condemned the "totally unacceptable" behaviour at the bailed-out bank and insisted the taxpayer would not pick up the bill.

The Edinburgh-based lender, which was rescued with taxpayers' cash at the height of the global financial crisis, said that it would recoup about £300 million from its staff bonus pool and by clawing back previous pay awards.

John Hourican, chief executive of the bank's Markets and International Banking division, is meanwhile to leave RBS and will forfeit his 2012 bonus and long-term incentive shares.

RBS said its derivative traders sought to influence the bank's yen and Swiss franc Libor setters over the four-year period.

More than a dozen other institutions remain under investigation, while last October the British government announced plans to make it a criminal offence to manipulate Libor.

At close Wednesday, RBS shares had risen 1.36 percent to 342.10 pence, beating a London market up by 0.20 percent.



## Bill Gates says fame not goal in aid work



NEW YORK (AFP) - Bill Gates, one of the world's richest men and highest profile aid donors, says he doesn't care if he's forgotten after his death - as long as polio and other major diseases have been eradicated.

"I don't need to be remembered at all," the co-founder of Microsoft, 57, told AFP in New York.

Gates has a fortune estimated by Forbes at \$61 billion, second only to Mexican telecoms tycoon Carlos Slim, and the satisfaction of knowing that Microsoft products are at the heart of computers in every corner of the world.

But he says that since quitting the running of Microsoft and focusing on his Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, it's the world's poorest that have his attention.

"None of the people who are at risk of polio know anything about me, nor should they. They are dealing with day to day life and the fact that their child might get crippled," Gates said in an interview at a posh Manhattan hotel.

Already the foundation has paid out \$25 billion to projects fighting disease and extreme poverty. There's currently about \$36 billion left in the pot -- and it's all going to go.

"My wife and I have decided that our foundation will spend all its money within 20 years of when neither of us are around, so we're not trying to create some perpetual thing," Gates said.

Target number one is polio, which has now been eradicated in India. Gates says a worldwide end to the crippling childhood disease is fea-

sible, with only Afghanistan, Nigeria and Pakistan the trouble spots.

"Within my lifetime, polio's not the only disease we should be able to eradicate. Even malaria -- although that's more like a several decades effort -- should be within reach," he said.

Gates said that traditional government aid packages from rich countries to poor countries have been inefficient, or worse. "A lot of that was about buying friendship and almost shouldn't be labeled aid," he said, referring to the Cold War era, when Western and Soviet programs fought for influence in Africa and elsewhere.

The way forward, Gates said, is to take a page from the corporate playbook and tie aid to specific goals, with close monitoring of progress.

"Business is always focused on measurements and if they get it wrong, they don't get capital and in extreme cases the company goes out of business," he said.

"Government and philanthropy don't naturally do the same thing," he said.

Gates' views on the need for bringing corporate efficiency to the aid world are laid out in detail in his "annual letter," which he released last week at:

<http://annualletter.gatesfoundation.org/>

## Tiger kills circus trainer in Mexico

MEXICO CITY (AFP) - An American tiger trainer was mauled and killed at a circus in Northwestern Mexico by one

of the big cats performing with him, officials said Tuesday.

Amateur video showed Alex Crispin Suarez, 35, circling

around two tigers and making the animals turn while standing on low platforms during a performance on Saturday in the Indian village of Etchojoa in Sonora state.

As he passed behind one of the tigers, it suddenly stopped the routine, knocked Crispin to the ground, pulled his pants off and clawed at his neck.

Shocked spectators were heard screaming as circus employees rushed to the scene. One hit the tiger repeatedly with a metal stand, but the animal would not let go of its prey.

Crispin was taken to hospital to receive treatment, but he died from the massive blood loss suffered in the attack.

Environmental protection prosecutors launched an investigation to determine the conditions at the circus under which the events occurred.

Authorities were focusing on the handling and display of 11 Bengal tigers, an elephant, three camels, 11 lamas and two pythons.

## Kashmir girl band quits after fatwa



SRINAGAR (AFP) - An all-girl teenage rock band from Indian-administered Kashmir has decided to quit after the region's top Muslim cleric declared their music to be "un-Islamic", their manager said. Pragaash, a three-piece group whose members are still in high school, had been the target of an online hate campaign ever since winning a "Battle of the Bands" contest in December. But after initially insisting they would continue making music, they have now called it a day after the Grand Mufti of Jammu and Kashmir, Bashiruddin Ahmad, branded them as "indecent" and issued a fatwa calling for them to quit.

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## Spend a fun evening with friends at Barney's



*A place where you feel like you are with friends*

A few months ago, Palm Beach welcomed a cozy new place that offers good food, great prices and a uniquely warm, welcoming ambiance that makes patrons feel as if they are visiting with friends rather than just eating out. Even the name, "Barney's", which was inspired by Barney Rubble of the Flintstones, is an expression of the good humor of its owners and your hosts, Ron and Elina.

Ron and Elina have a very congenial division of labor; he

enjoys being bartender and playing around with his "cocktail of the day" while she sees to it that everyone is well satisfied with their meal. Chef Jan is in the kitchen doing his magic; patrons praise their spicy

Firecracker Shrimp appetizer and mushrooms stuffed with escargot, priced at \$9.50 and \$8.50, or the Smoked Trout Fillet for a real gourmet treat.



*Tuna Steak a la Chef*

They are particularly popular for their "Build Your Own Barney Burger" using spe-

cially imported organic beef from Holland, guaranteed to have been raised without steroids or antibiotics, only \$9.50 with fries and coleslaw. Patrons are handed a special hamburger checklist, which features a full menu of toppings, sauces and cheeses to customize your order to create the ideal burger. One can also opt for a second or third hamburger patty for a very nominal cost.

High end items on the menu, such as the Seafood Pasta, are only \$20.50. They also have a kid's menu with favorites such as a Kid's Burger, chicken fingers and Mac & Cheese; most items are only \$4. One regular described the place as particularly "kid-friendly," with Elina, a mother herself, having devised a number of methods to keep young ones entertained. The menu has a range to please patrons who are in the mood for something simple while other can be indulgent gourmands.

Tuesday through Saturday evenings they have specialty nights at bargain rates. Tuesday is Schnitzel Night, with a choice of chicken or pork schnitzel prepared any of five ways, a platter with salad and side dish is \$17.50. Wednesday is "All you can eat grouper, prepared any of five ways, with veggies and side dish, \$19.50. Thursday they do it again with unlimited ribs done three ways for \$17.50 with salad, slaw and fries, Saturday means endless rib eye steak with salad and fries for \$19.50. Friday evening ends the work week with Karaoke Night, a convivial and fun evening when islanders kick back and let loose their inner rock star.

**Barney's is located just next to the huge supermarket on the Palm Beach/Noord road, not far from the gas station. They are open from 5:00 to 11:00 PM and closed on Mondays. Check out their full menu at <http://www.barneysaruba.com> or call 586-5420 for reservations and directions.**

## La Linda Department Store- where Aruba shops!



*Calman and Anna Hochman*

Though Aruba has its share of designer brand stores and shopping malls, ask almost any islander where they shop, and they will likely tell you "La Linda." Spread out over several specialty stores on the Caya Betico Croes, La Linda was Aruba's first and foremost department stores, where, for decades, one could find anything and everything, and after more than 70 years, still can make that claim.

It is also a distinctly family operation, with the personal touch and supervision of the Hochmans, who take their reputation for stocking "the best quality for the best price" very seriously. It all

started with Calman Hochman, a Jewish Polish immigrant who opened his first small shop with his Aruban wife Anna, carrying "a little bit of everything that anyone could need." This was before WWII, when the present head of the company, Jaime, hadn't even been born yet. Many of their sales help have also been with the store for over two decades, and "it is very much like family here," he admits. Their loyal patrons also look forward to being helped by shop girls who have become friends, knowing they will get great and honest service.

To this day, La Linda is

particularly known for its huge fabrics and notions department, the first destination for many on an island where making your own clothes is still an everyday practice. Without question, the store offers the greatest diversity of selection in nearly every department, and they have now consolidated them all into one store; four floors containing a wealth of choices in clothing for men, women and children, house wares, bedding, sporting goods, luggage, shoes, jewelry, decorative items and more.

"The present store is a work in progress," asserts Jaime, as they continue to



*Unique, quality goods in all departments*



*Comfortable lounges for companions while shopping a vast selection*

renovate and enlarge what had been only the men's store and warehouse in the past. **Normally closed for a 2 hour lunch/siesta in the old island way, shoppers will soon find it open daily for the entire day, from 9:30 AM to 6:30 PM, as they are on Saturday's, with a bright, charming eatery installed on the top floor.**

La Linda is continually expanding their inventory, with their acquisitions department continually seeking out interesting, unique, and moderately priced goods from all over the world, always with an eye towards quality.

They pay particular attention to their Women's Department specializing in over-sized garments, stocking larger sizes exhibiting distinctive dash and style.

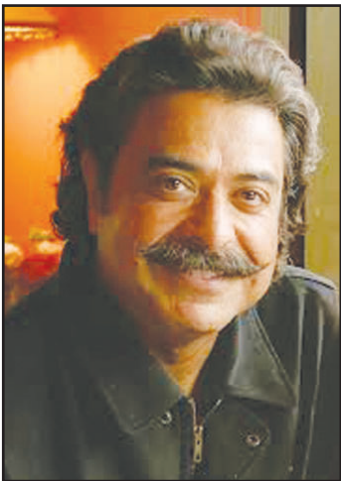
For travelers who have perhaps lost their luggage, they can offer a quick fix for all the family which won't break your budget, including some very stylish new suitcases.

A visit to La Linda and perusal of their interesting collection will make anyone understand why it has remained successful all these decades, and is still Aruba's favorite place to shop!



## Sport

### NFL: Pakistan-born owner launches new era for Jaguars



JACKSONVILLE (AFP) - With moves to broaden the global appeal of his National Football League team, Pakistani-born owner Shad Khan has kicked off a new era for the Jacksonville Jaguars.

The team unveiled new logos, tweaking the animal-head design the team has used since 1995, and announced plans to become the first NFL club to make local sponsorship deals in England ahead of playing a home game in London this year.

The Jaguars will play last Sunday's Super Bowl losers, the San Francisco 49ers, at London's Wembley Stadium on October 27. The NFL will also have the Minnesota Vikings meet the Pittsburgh Steelers in London on September 29.

Rebranding the Jaguars' organization is part of helping the team bounce back after going 2-14 last season, matching Kansas City for the worst record in the 32-team league.

Khan, a billionaire businessman who built an auto parts empire after coming to the United States, has named David Caldwell the team's new general manager and Gus Bradley as the club's new coach.

"We now in my opinion have the ideal franchise model with incredible leadership on both sides -- the business side and the football side," Khan said. "We have a game plan for success. I am confident the victories will come."

A brand platform like this is important for a sports franchise," Khan said. "Many players and coaches will represent the team and city over time. You want them to respect the philosophy that was in place before they arrived and that will be in place after they leave. You want your fans to share the same vision."

The Jaguars will receive a fi-

nancial boost from the London game, with ticket prices 44 percent above those charged in Jacksonville and more seats than the Jaguars' home stadium with a full-time sales executive in London soon to be hired by the club.

Last August, just seven months after his purchase of the club was completed, Khan committed the Jaguars to playing one home game a year in London for the next four seasons in a bid to raise the club's global profile.

### Africa Cup of Nation: B. Faso defy odds, referee to beat Ghana, Nigeria beats Mali



NELSPRUIT (AFP) - Rank outsiders Burkina Faso will face Nigeria in the Africa Cup of Nations final after a 3-2 penalty shootout win over Ghana on Wednesday.

Ghana's Udinese midfielder Emmanuel Agyeman Badu had his effort saved by Daouda Diakite after earlier misses by teammates Isaac Vorsah and Emmanuel Clotey.

Bakary Kone, Henri Traore and Aristide Bance converted their chances to continue the fairy-tale run of a team that had turned up in South Africa with the modest ambition of ending a 17-match winless Nations Cup run.

Now they find themselves meeting Nigeria, 4-1 winners over Mali earlier, for a shot at becoming kings of Africa.

The spot-kick climax was called for after the two teams were inseparable at 1-1 in a thrilling semi-final, with Bance's second-half goal cancelling out Mubarak Wakaso's early penalty.

The Burkinabe were deserved winners after almost coming unstuck by a series of strange decisions against them

by Tunisian referee Slim Jdidi.

Chief among them was a legitimate penalty claim turned down, and a goal disallowed.

Jdidi wrongly waved away claims for an early spot-kick when John Boye barged into Jonathan Pitroipa, knocking his Rennes teammate uncereemoniously to the much maligned Mbombela Stadium turf.

But on 13 minutes the referee had no hesitation in giving Ghana a penalty after an innocuous tangle involving Mady Pananditiguir and Christian Atsu.

Wakaso stepped up to convert past Daouda Diakite, for his fourth goal of the competition.

The penalty dramas sandwiched an unscripted substitution for Ghana, with Solomon Asante coming on for John Paintsil, stretchered off with a right high injury.

Burkina were giving as good as they got in attack, but would have to find a way to trouble Ghana keeper Fatawu Dauda in the second half if they were to make it to Soweto on Sunday.

Burkina Faso's athletic striker Bance was looking dangerous every time he got the ball.

On 52 minutes Dauda produced a superb save off the Augsburg attacker's header when he grabbed the ball from underneath the crossbar, Jdidi on this occasion getting it absolutely right, much to the Burkinabe fans' displeasure.

Down at the other end, Gyan hit Diakite's woodwork.

On the hour, Burkina got the equaliser their endeavour deserved, Bance, coolly firing past Dauda.

Burkina's Dynamo Bucharest defender Paul Koulibaly was fortunate to escape with just a yellow after lashing out with his boot at a delicate part of Gyan's body.

Diakite kept Ghana at bay with a diving save to deny Atsu's attempt to send the game into extra time, which was only minutes old when he tipped over a shot from Harrison Afful.

Bance had his yellow spaghetti-mop hair in his

hands on 102 minutes when clear on goal only to shoot high.

Jdidi made another strange decision against Burkina Faso when disallowing Prejuice Nakoulma's goal after a minor clash with Kwadwo Asamoah.

Pitroipa was harshly sent off on 117 minutes for picking up his second booking of the night, for diving, after he had, in fact, been felled. He misses Sunday's final.

Dauda produced a series of fine saves to keep Ghana in business, but with the crowd almost to a man on their side, Burkina held their nerve to book an improbable date at Soweto's Soccer City.

In Durban semi-final football match Mali vs Nigeria, Nigeria won 4-1.

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## Sports: Armstrong tops Forbes most disliked US athletes list

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Disgraced US cyclist Lance Armstrong, who confessed last month to doping after being stripped of his seven Tour de France titles last year, tops the new Forbes magazine list of most disliked US athletes.

The list, released on the magazine's website Wednesday, saw Armstrong edge collegiate American football player Manti Te'o on a higher name recognition tie-breaker after each had only 15 percent appeal in a Nielsen/E-Poll survey.

Armstrong backpedaled on years of denials last month by admitting he had taken performance-enhancing drugs

during his 1999-2005 victory run in the Tour, tainted his cancer-comeback story and Livestrong Foundation charity efforts.

Te'o was a linebacker for Notre Dame, which lost to Alabama in last month's US college gridiron title game, and finished second in Heisman Trophy voting as last season's top player, making him a top National Football League prospect.

But then came the revelation that the girlfriend whose death he grieved in the season had never existed, only the product of internet fakery and a voice on a telephone.

He said he was not involved in the hoax and was merely duped, even when lying about



having met the fictional girlfriend.

Tiger Woods, the 14-time major golf champion who won his 75th career US PGA Tour title last month at Torrey Pines, was third on the list at 19 percent appeal, a likely lingering

aftermath of the epic sex scandal that destroyed his marriage and damaged his iconic good-guy marketing image and sponsorship deals.

NFL Chicago Bears quarterback Jay Cutler was fourth, followed in order by Metta World Peace of the NBA Los Angeles Lakers, Alex Rodriguez of Major League Baseball's New York Yankees, NFL Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Michael Vick, US stock car racer Kurt Busch, World Peace's teammate Kobe Bryant and NFL Dallas Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo.

Rodriguez, who admitted taking performance-enhancing substances in 2009, was linked to such drugs again in a Miami New Times report last month

based on records obtained from an employee at Biogenesis, a Miami clinic that allegedly supplied human growth hormone and other drugs to major league players.

Vick, a former disliked list topper, spent time in prison for his role in a dog-fight gambling ring, which included slaying underperforming dogs.

Among those dropping off the list from 2012 was NBA superstar LeBron James, who upset many fans when he departed the Cleveland Cavaliers for the Miami Heat. Last year, James led the Heat to an NBA crown, the first of his career, and helped the US Olympic team of NBA stars capture gold at London.

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### NBA: Rockets match record with 23 3-pointers



HOUSTON (AFP) - Jeremy Lin drained five of Houston's record-equalling 23 three-pointers on Tuesday as the Rockets romped to a 140-109 NBA victory over the Golden State Warriors. The Rockets matched the NBA record with their 23 from beyond the arc, the long-range barrage lifting them to a fifth win in six games. Lin finished with 28 points as the Rockets notched their highest-scoring game of the season. Their 14 three-pointers in the first half also tied an NBA record -- even though their best three-point shooter, Carlos Delfino, was sidelined by a right elbow injury. James Harden and Chandler Parsons had four three-pointers apiece. Harden finished with a total of 18 points and Parsons scored 16.

### NBA: Bryant scores 21 to lead Lakers over Nets



NEW YORK (AFP) - Kobe Bryant scored 21 points to help the Los Angeles Lakers overcome the absence of Dwight Howard and Metta World Peace, and a late injury to Pau Gasol, in a 92-83 NBA victory over the Brooklyn Nets on Tuesday. The game was tied 80-80 when Bryant drove for a dunk that put the Lakers ahead with just over three minutes remaining. The Lakers could be dealing with another injury blow after Gasol appeared to hurt his right foot with 4:21 to play. He was defending Lopez, and may have come down on the Nets' player's foot.





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## Football: Europol uncovers vast match-fixing ring

THE HAGUE (AFP) - European police warned this week that the integrity of football was at stake as they revealed they had unearthed a criminal network fixing hundreds of matches, including in the Champions League and World Cup qualifiers.

Europol said a five-country probe had identified 380 suspicious matches targeted by a Singapore-based betting cartel, whose illegal activities stretched to players, referees and officials across the world at all levels of the game.

"It is clear to us that this is the biggest investigation ever into suspected match fixing," Europol chief Rob Wainwright told a news conference in The

Hague, adding that the fall-out hit at the heart of the world game's reputation.

Wainwright said he would be writing to Michel Platini, the head of European football's governing body UEFA, but said all of football needed to "heed the warning" and be on their guard.

The revelations come after Interpol last month warned that global football corruption was helping to fuel the criminal underworld's domination of prostitution, drug-trafficking and gun-running and in the wake of several high-profile scandals.

Interpol chief Ronald Noble said last November it expected to make arrests in Singapore

over the Italian match-fixing scandal after links were suspected between one player arrested and crimelord Tan Seet Eng or Dan Tan.

As part of investigations, 14 people have already been sentenced to a total of 39 years in prison, Europol said, with more than 100 prosecutions expected.

In the latest claims, Europol said that at least 425 referees, players and other officials were suspected of involvement, with matches rigged so that major sums of money could be won through betting.

Of this total, 151 are living in Germany, 66 in Turkey and 29 in Switzerland, but suspects fixing matches in other parts of Europe and around the world are also concerned.

Two of Europe's Champions League matches and some World Cup qualifiers are also suspected, Europol said.

No details were given about which top-flight matches were involved because some investigations were still on-going, although it was revealed that one of the Champions League matches had been played in England.

The largest bet profit Europol did reveal, was 700,000 euros (\$950,000) in an Austrian Bundesliga game between Redbull Salzburg and Hartberg, but the policing agency gave no further details.

Criminals made over eight million euros in profits from betting on fixed matches, while some two million euros in cash and profits were seized.

Europol showed television coverage of a suspect match, a junior international between Argentina and Bolivia, during which a Hungarian referee awards a highly dubious penalty in extra time.

The probe was carried out by Europol and five European countries: Germany, Hungary, Slovenia, Finland and Austria.

A further 300 suspicious matches have been identified outside Europe in Africa, Asia, and South and Central America, in the course of the investigation, Europol said.

Responding to Europol's announcement in short statement, UEFA said it was already working with authorities "on these serious matters as part of its zero tolerance policy towards match-fixing in our sport."

## NFL: Super Bowl MVP Flacco eyes new contract



NEW ORLEANS (AFP) - Joe Flacco has his Super Bowl MVP trophy and his first NFL championship ring and now the Baltimore Ravens quarterback says it is time to negotiate a new contract. Flacco, whose contract expired Sunday, won the Pete Rozelle Trophy as he led the Ravens to their second Super Bowl title in franchise history with a 34-31 victory over the San Francisco 49ers. Flacco threw three first half touchdowns and Jacoby Jones returned a kickoff 108 yards to open the second half for the Ravens who won their first Super Bowl in 12 years. Flacco completed 22 of 33 passes for 287 yards and three touchdowns with no interceptions Sunday, becoming just the sixth player in NFL history to throw three or more touchdown passes in the first half of a Super Bowl. The numbers are impressive and it should result in a multi-million new contract for Flacco who has been in talks for several months with Ravens' owner Steve Bisciotti about a new deal.



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